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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

11 JUL 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference PU030018	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US03/21329	International filing date (day/month/year) 09 July 2003 (09.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 10 January 2003 (10.01.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): H04N 7/12 and US Cl.: 375/240.24, 240.25, 240.27, 240.29			
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the

PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand

06 August 2004 (06.08.2004)

Date of completion of this report

10 November 2004 (10.11.2004)

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/21329

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☒ the international application as originally filed.

☒ the description:

pages 1-7 as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the claims:

pages 8-11 as originally filed

pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the drawings:

pages 1 as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in printed form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages NONE

☐ the claims, Nos. NONE

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/21329

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-24</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-24</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-24</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-24 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Lainema et al (US 2001/0019634 A1).

Lainema et al, in Figures 1, 5, and 6, discloses a method for filtering digital images that is the same method for smoothing transitions in decoded macroblocks, comprising the steps of detecting if a decoded macroblock has errors attributable to missing/corrupted pixel values 30, and if so, concealing errors by estimating the missing/corrupted pixel values from previously transmitted macroblocks to yield an error-concealed macroblock 31; filtering the error concealed-macroblock by a deblocking filter to smooth transitions artificially created by an error concealment algorithm 32; modifying a boundary strength value on transitions between pairs of concealed macroblocks and error-free macroblocks in accordance with error concealment (Fig. 2); modifying a quantization parameter average 607 for the deblocking filter between pairs of concealed macroblocks and correctly received macroblocks; and varying each of a pair of offset values for the deblocking filter (Fig. 6).

Applicant asserts on pages 2 and 3 of the Remarks filed 10/20/04 that Lainema et al fails to disclose concealing errors in decoded macroblocks. However, elements 36, 38, and the Abstract of Lainema et al explicitly disclose the concept of such common technique on decoded macroblocks having missing or corrupted data (B1-B4), as a result of transmission errors (Fig. 5).

NEW CITATIONS

NONE